

Community as Co-Educator



Joyce Ayala, student
Jesus Orellana, student
Daisy Perez, student
Cynthia Ramirez, student
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Summer Service Program

- ❖ 10 weeks of full-time volunteer service during the summer
- ❖ Community Partners: Social Service Agencies, Religious Institutions, Camps, Social Justice Organizations
- ❖ Goals: Leadership Development, Spiritual Development, Interfaith Skills and Knowledge, Civic and Community Engagement Skills
- ❖ Community Engagement Course Credit:
 - ❖ 1) Set goals (personal, service, spiritual or reflective goal, 2) Weekly journaling 3) Read two books of their choosing - inspiring, spirituality, justice work, etc. 4) Final reflection paper on goals, growth/insights, & understanding of community engagement
- ❖ Community as Co-Educators

Interfaith Learning Outcomes

- ❖ As a result of their experience at the University of La Verne, students will:
 - ❖ Articulate a definition/concept of interfaith cooperation
 - ❖ Critically reflect upon and be able to narrate the story of their evolving worldview
 - ❖ Articulate how interfaith cooperation contributes to their professional and civic lives
 - ❖ Apply strategies that foster meaningful dialogue in a pluralistic community
 - ❖ Demonstrate an appreciative understanding of various worldviews that is historical and nuanced and built through shared dialogue and common experiences

Student Reflection #1, Junior



New Community Project: Sustainable Living Center
Harrisonburg, VA

Student Reflection #2, Sophomore



Baha'i Community of Rancho Cucamonga, CA
and Inland Valley Hope Partners, Pomona, CA

Student Reflection #3, Sophomore



Camp Myrtlewood, Oregon

Student Reflection #4, Senior



Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE)
Los Angeles, CA

Take-Aways

- ❖ Community as Co-Educator – can help institution/programs meet interfaith learning outcomes
- ❖ According to our students
 - ❖ Being in proximity to worldview diversity clarifies and expands their own worldview
 - ❖ Working with people and organizations who are putting their faith/values into action is inspiring, motivating & instructive (engages them in questions of meaning, purpose, activism, advocacy, peaceful living, justice work, compassion, etc.)
- ❖ Sustained engagement (rather than one day events) makes for deeper learning
- ❖ Reflective activities are essential (pre, during, and post)